



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

Select Board

Peter S. Cunningham, *Chair*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Vice Chair*
Nicholas J. Degaitas, Jr., *Clerk*
John F. Reilly, *Member*
Matthew F. Pisani, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

SELECT BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026

AGENDA

SELECT BOARD MEETING ROOM

2nd FLOOR

GROTON TOWN HALL

- 6:00 P.M. Announcements and Review Agenda for the Public
- 6:05 P.M. Public Comment Period
- I. 6:06 P.M. Town Manager's Report
1. Update from the Fire Department Staffing Working Group
 2. Update from Town Manager on Town Manager/Town Administrator Budget Working Group
 3. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule through the Labor Day
- II. 6:10 P.M. Items for Select Board Consideration and Action
1. Call for and Open the Warrant for the 2026 Fall Town Meeting
 2. Review and Consider Approving FY 2027 Select Board Goals
 3. Consider Approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Friends of Prescott Paint and Sip Event to be held on Saturday, August 1, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 P.M.
- III. 6:15 P.M. In Joint Session with the Groton Contingent of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee - Interview and Consider Appointing an Individual to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee Until the 2027 Annual Election
- IV. 7:00 P.M. In Joint Session with the Finance Committee, Review and Consider Approving Line Item Transfers for Fiscal Year 2026
- OTHER BUSINESS - -Authorize the Town Manager and One Member of the Select Board to Sign Warrants for the Next Thirty Days
- ON-GOING ISSUES - Review and Informational Purposes – Brief Comments - Items May or May Not Be Discussed
- A. PFAS Issue
 - B. UMass Satellite Emergency Facility
 - C. Fire Department Staffing
 - D. West Groton Dam Removal
 - E. Main Street Study
 - F. Flock Cameras

SELECT BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

- V. Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting of June 29, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Votes may be taken at any time during the meeting. The listing of topics that the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting is not intended as a guarantee of the topics that will be discussed. Not all topics listed may in fact be discussed, and other topics not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



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Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *Select Board*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Agenda Update/Report*

Date: *July 13, 2026*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

In addition to the Town Manager's Report, Items for Select Board Consideration and Action and a review of the On-going Issues List, there are two items scheduled on Monday's Agenda. First, the Select Board will be meeting in joint session with the Groton Contingent of the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee to interview and consider appointing an individual to fill a vacancy on the GDRSD Committee until the 2027 Annual Town Election. Pursuant to the Board's policy, we advertised the position and received two applicants. Rebeccas Weksner and Cassidy Dallas have submitted interest forms for the vacancy. They are attached to this Report for your review. Both applicants will attend Monday's meeting. Second, the Select Board will be meeting in joint session with the Finance Committee to consider approving Fiscal Year 2026 Line Item Transfers. Enclosed with this Report are the proposed Transfers for your review and consideration.

1. Fire Chief Art Cheeks will attend Monday's meeting for him and me to provide you with a brief status update from the Fire Staffing Working Group. Enclosed with this Report are some statistics obtained thus far from the Staffing Study. Both the Chief and I look forward to meeting with you on Monday.
2. The Town Manager's/Town Administrator's Budget Working Group held its first meeting this past week. I would like to spend a few minutes at Monday's meeting updating the Select Board on the meeting and reviewing preliminary projections with you.

Select Board
Weekly Agenda Update/Report
July 13, 2026
page two

3. Please see the update to the Meeting Schedule that will take the Board through Labor Day:

Monday, July 20, 2026 -	No Meeting
Monday, July 27, 2026 -	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, August 3, 2026 -	No Meeting (Kara Vacation)
Monday, August 10, 2026 -	No Meeting (Mark Vacation)
Monday, August 17, 2026 -	Review First Draft of Fall Town Meeting Warrant
Monday, August 24, 2026 -	No Meeting
Monday, August 31, 2026 -	Public Hearing on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant
Monday, September 7, 2026 -	No Meeting (Labor Day Holiday)
Monday, September 14, 2026 -	Issue the Warrant for the Fall Town Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. It is that time of year for the Select Board to call for the 2026 Fall Town Meeting. As you know, according to the Town's Bylaws, the default date for the meeting is the third Monday of October, which, this year, is October 19, 2026. Due to early voting for the 2026 State Election, the Town Clerk has requested that the Select Board choose an earlier date for the Meeting. The Bylaw allows the Select Board to choose another date in September, October or November as long as you provide six (6) weeks' notice to the public. Based on all of this, I am recommending that the Select Board call for the meeting to be held on Saturday, October 3, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m. I would respectfully request that the Board call for the meeting on this date and open the Warrant for the Meeting. Enclosed with this Report is the time line for the meeting. I would also respectfully request that you close the Warrant on Thursday, August 13, 2026. We can discuss this in more detail at Monday's meeting.
2. Enclosed with this Report are proposed Select Board Goals submitted by the various members. I would like to review these with the Select Board at Monday's meeting and finalize them. The Board usually sets between three (3) and five (5) goals each year.
3. I would respectfully request that the Select Board approve a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Friends of Prescott Paint and Sip Event to be held on Saturday, August 1, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 P.M.

MWH/rjb
enclosure

Mark Haddad

From: Town of Groton <mchiasson@grotonma.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 2:49 PM
To: Select Board
Subject: New Committee Interest Form Entry

Name

Rebecca Weksner

Phone Number

6173129853

Email

Theweksners@gmail.com

What Committee are you Joining?

School Committee

Please give us a brief explanation of why you are interested.

One of my essential beliefs is that education provides a key to a strong future. If there is a way for me to support this for our district, and the students of our community, I am interested in doing so. My professional training as a school psychologist and as a clinical psychologist provides a unique lens through which to evaluate policy and advocate for all students. My experience as a

clinician leader at a large medical practice as well as a small business owner informs my understanding of the financial constraints, and my previous experience as a member of School Committee in a different town gives me insight into the real challenges of balancing the needs of individuals with the needs of the community at large.

I believe my skillset will provide the necessary stability to fulfill Ms. Raynor's term, and would be grateful for the consideration.

Sent from [Town of Groton](#)

Mark Haddad

From: Town of Groton <mchiasson@grotonma.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2026 1:36 PM
To: Select Board
Subject: New Committee Interest Form Entry

Name

Cassidy Dallas

Phone Number

6074273532

Email

cass@cassdallas.com

What Committee are you Joining?

School Committee

Please give us a brief explanation of why you are interested.

Subject: Letter of Interest for School Committee Vacancy

To Whom It May Concern:

For those whom I haven't yet had the opportunity to meet, my name is Cass Dallas and I'm writing to express interest in the open school committee position. I have

experience with children's education and well being throughout my career as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, through involvement in volunteering and community organizing, and through parenting my own child, who is fortunate to receive special education in Groton. While I was planning to run in the upcoming election cycle, when I learned of the opening following the vacancy left by Faye Raynor, I felt called to reach out and serve our community.

In reading about Faye's tenure on the school committee in the recent Groton Herald, and through following the school committee's challenging and thoughtful work through my decade living in Groton, what stood out was the depth of care that folks on the school committee have that drives their service. We have this in common. I care deeply about the future of our community's children as we face significant issues, including the challenges with the Chapter 70 foundation budget and funding formula, the implementation of the time-out policy, and building a school community that meets the needs of all of the families in our town, including those who are on fixed incomes and struggling financially to remain in Groton.

In my career and community involvement, I have built skills as a strong advocate, thoughtful listener, and intergenerational coalition builder. I have also demonstrated the capacity to lead, handle sensitive and impactful decisions, and do this all with kindness, humility, and consideration. My curiosity and willingness to learn and collaborate are strengths that I hope to bring to the role on the School Committee, among other strengths and experiences. I've been trusted with the safety and well being of the 1.7 million youth served by the Trevor Project suicide hotline for LGBTQIA+ youth in my role writing policy and working on Continuous Improvement. I've been on the Worship Committee at First Parish Church which allowed me to build significant and deep relationships in our town, and have led and directed rapid responses, vigils and community support for tragedies that impact youth. I've also served as the Therapist in Residence for Love Your Labels in Worcester, MA

I love Groton, and feel called to bring this depth and breadth of experience home to serve our town. Thanks for your thoughtful consideration of my candidacy. I wish the Select Board and School Committee the best in finding the right person to fill the

School Committee vacancy, and I am open to talking and sharing more about my background, vision and candidacy. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

With care,

Cassidy "Cass" Dallas, LICSW

Sent from [Town of Groton](#)

PROPOSED LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR YEAR END 2026

Ledger Number	Transfers TO (Line Items Projecting a Deficit)		Adj. & New	Final Transfer Totals	Notes	Function Total
	Account	Requests as of 6/11/2026				
5400	124 Town Mgr Expenses	5,600	6,338	11,938	Survey for Easement/Libx/Wreaths	
5115	141 Assessors Salaries	11,822		11,822	VBB	
5120	135 Accounting Wages	3,856		3,856	Mid Year wage to sal adj	
5400	145 Treasurer/Collector Expenses	3,000	(24,200)	3,000	QDS Data Extraction	
5220	151 Town Counsel	25,000	\$700	800	June Mirick Invoice	
5303	156 Postage Expense	\$685	(\$685)	700	Mailing Activity	
5120	161 Town Clerk Wages	\$300		\$0	Election OT	41,290 Gen Govt
5400	171 Conservation Commission	\$2,191	(\$481)	\$300	Groton Herald Invoices	
5115	210 Police Salaries	\$5,200		\$1,710	VBB/Longevity	
5120	241 Building Insp Wages	\$1,220	\$6,685	\$5,200	Xtra Local Inspector hours	
5115	242 Mechanical Inspector Salaries	\$625	\$266	\$7,905	Inspectional Activity	
5400	242 Mechanical Inspector Expenses	\$78		\$891	mileage	
5400	244 Sealer of Weights & Measures	\$4,000		\$78	State Contract	
5400	291 Civil Defense	\$429		\$4,000	Hazard Mitigation Plan	
5400	292 Dog Officer	\$11,000		\$429	Renegotiation of salary	\$11,339 PPP
5115	420 Highway Salaries	\$1,921		\$11,000	HI Opt Out not budgeted	
5490	423 Snow & Ice	\$10,000		\$1,921	Winter Storm Activity	
5471	430 Tipping Fees	\$8,360	\$6,500	\$16,500	Disposal Activity	\$29,421 DPW
5120	542 COA Van Wages	\$6,569	(\$1,360)	\$7,000	Van Activity/Increases	\$7,000 Citizen Srvc
5120	610 Library Wages	\$30,000	(\$174)	\$6,395	HI Opt out/VBB Retirements	
5120	640 Country Club Wages	\$57,000	\$4,500	\$34,500	Programming	
5400	640 Country Club Expenses	\$5,000	\$43,000	\$100,000	CC Function Hall Bathrooms	\$140,895 Culture/Rec
5400	913 Unemployment Compensation	\$5,000	\$10,752	\$15,752	Unemployment Claims	
5173	916 Town Share Medicare	\$10,000		\$10,000	Payroll Activity	\$25,752 Benefits
5002-4990	3002 Old Ayer Rd Betterments	\$3,841	\$5,000	\$5,000	Final Debt Payment	
6000-5120	6000 Center Sewer Enterprise	\$427	\$159	\$4,000	Sewer Ent Vote	
6040-5120	6040 4 Corners Sewer	\$39,000	\$73	\$500	4 Corners Ent Vote	
6100-5120	6100 Water Enterprise Wages	\$5,500	\$111	\$39,111	Mid Year wage adj	
6500-5120	6500 Stormwater			\$5,500	Stormwater Ent Stipend	\$54,111 Enterprise
	TOTAL PROJECTED DEFICITS (ESTIMATED)	\$252,624	\$57,184	\$309,808		\$309,808
	Transfers FROM					
	(Line Items with Projected Surplus)					
5120	141 Assessor Wages	-\$6,778		-\$6,778		
5115	145 Treasury Salaries	-\$15,000		-\$15,000		
5115	161 Town Clerk Salaries	-\$8,000		-\$8,000		
5451	193 Insurance Deductible Reserve	-\$10,000	-\$11,315	-\$21,315		-\$51,093 Gen Govt
5120	210 Police Wages	-\$2,191	\$481	-\$1,710		-\$4,310 PPP
5115	241 Bldg Inspector Salaries	-\$2,600		-\$2,600		-\$55,109 DPW
5400	420 Highway Wages	-\$23,000	-\$17,500	-\$40,500		-\$3,200 Citizen Srvc
5400	430 Solid Waste General Expenses	-\$3,200	-\$14,609	-\$14,609		-\$6,435 Culture/Rec
5120	541 COA Wages	-\$6,435		-\$6,435		
5925	752 Interest on Short Term Debt	-\$126,652	-\$8,898	\$0		\$-135,550 Benefits
5400	914 Employee Health Insurance	-\$3,841	-\$5,159	-\$9,000		
6000-5400	6000 Center Sewer General Expenses	-\$427	-\$73	-\$500		
6040-5400	6040 4 Corners General Expenses	-\$22,000		-\$22,913		
6100-5115	6100 Water Department Salaries	-\$17,000	\$16,675	-\$325		
6100-5400	6100 Water Enterprise General Expenses		-\$15,873	-\$15,873		
6100-5925	6100 Water Enterprise Interest on Notes			-\$5,500		
6500-5400	6500 Stormwater General Expense					
	TOTAL SURPLUS FUNDS (ESTIMATED)	-\$252,624	-\$57,184	-\$309,808		-\$309,808
	Net Transfer					\$0

Mark Haddad

From: Art Cheeks <acheeks@grotonma.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2026 7:14 AM
To: Mark Haddad
Subject: 1st six months of 2026
Attachments: 2026 Six Month Incident Breakdown Data.xlsx; 6 mo. incident ct. by month.png; 6 Mo. Incident ct. by time of day.png; 6 mo. incident ct. by day of wek.png

Mark,

For packet...

Attached you will find the 2026 six-month incident data totals. The data set is extracted from our electronic record keeping platform (ESO). It once again shows a consistent increase in requests for service. With this I have added the total number of medical calls in which we were not the primary transports this in turn accounts for a \$49,653.00 loss in ambulance receipt revenue not including the fees obtained for mileage for the first 6 months of 2026. That accounts for 36 incidents where we were not the primary transport. At current rate of call volume, it ends up being an approximate \$100K loss over the year

I have also attached data representing incidents by month, time of day, and day of the week.

Includes both Fire and EMS

Overlapping Fire Incidents Worksheet

Oldest Date	1/1/2026
Newest Date	6/30/2026
Overlapping Incidents	343
Total Incidents	1032
Percent of Calls Overlapping	33%

EMS only Overlapping calls



Overlapping EHR Incidents Worksheet

	Oldest Date	1/1/2026
	Newest Date	6/30/2026
	Overlapping Incidents	249
	Total Incidents	703
	Percent of Calls Overlapping	35%

Below is a breakdown of the percentage of times in which we were able to fill the 4th person on a shift. To explain this a bit more, For the study part of our charge was to upstaff to achieve 4 FF/EMTs per group (4 groups) per shift. This would allow us the ability to deploy the 2nd ambulance in the event of overlapping EMS calls as well as provide an initial fire response of 4 Firefighters.

The left column is broken down by two-week pay period. If we look at the pay period of 3.22-4.4, out a total of 28 available shifts (4th person – 2wks pay period =14 days = shift broken down into a 10hr. day shift followed by a 14hr. night shift. Gives us 28 total shifts.) 7 of those shifts were filled, 21 unfilled giving us a 25% success rate.

Sheet	Filled	Unfilled	Total	Completion %
7.12-7.25	0	28	28	0.0%
6.28-7.11	12	16	28	42.9%
6.14-6.30	15	13	28	53.6%
5.31-6.13	17	11	28	60.7%
5.17-5.30	12	16	28	42.9%
5.3-5.16	10	18	28	35.7%
4.19-5.2	13	15	28	46.4%
4.5-4.18	3	25	28	10.7%
3.22-4.4	7	21	28	25.0%

Pride, Service, & Dedication

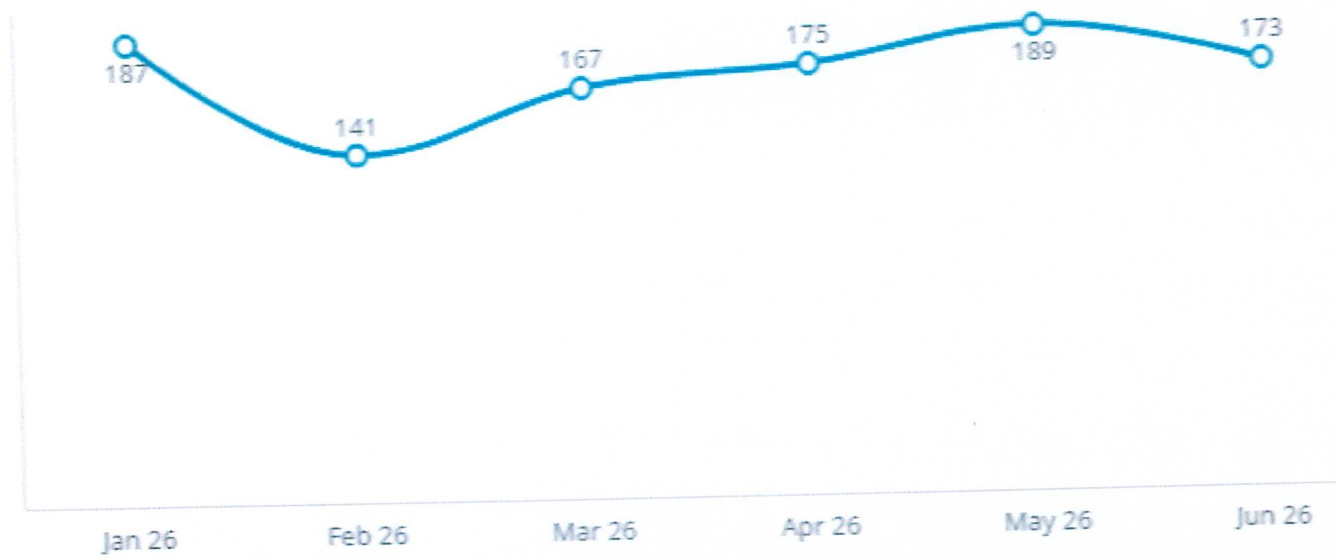


Art Cheeks
Fire Chief
Groton Fire Department
45 Farmers Row
Groton, MA 01450

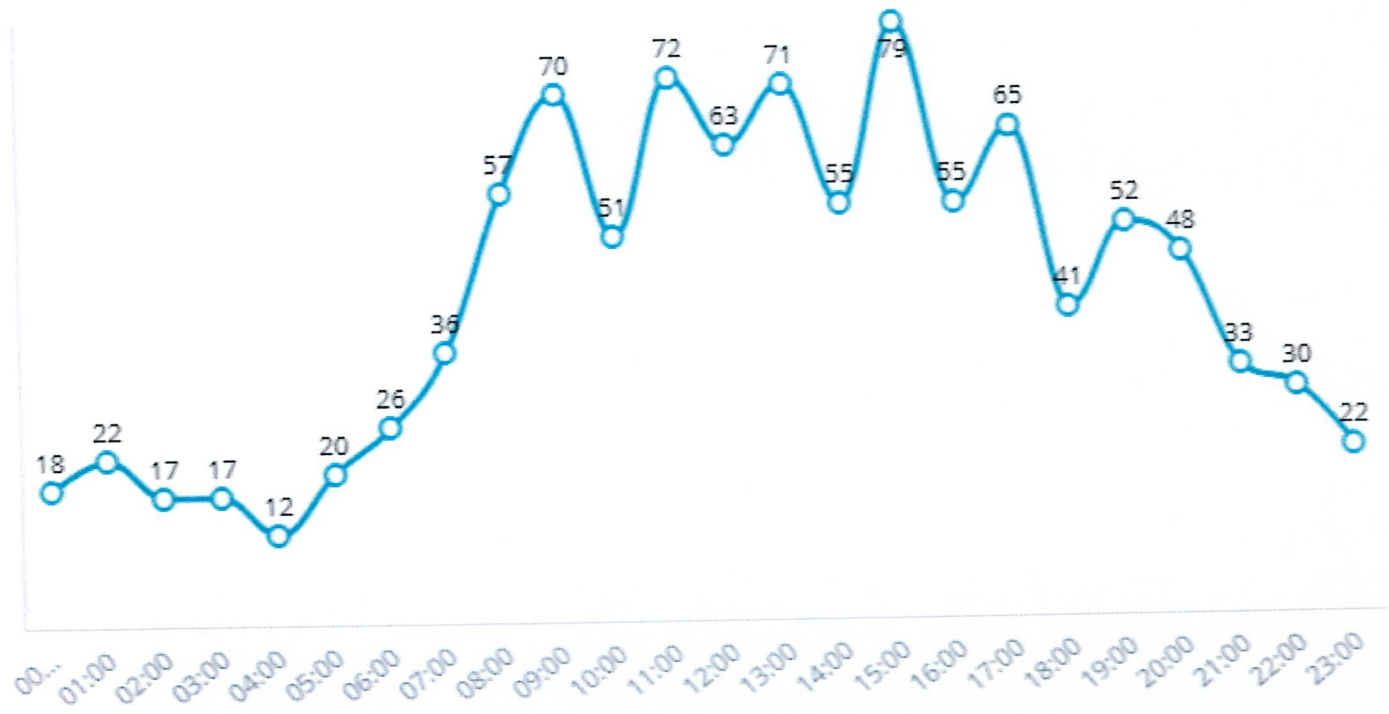
Primary Incident Type Category	Primary Incident Type Subcategory	Primary Incident Type	Count of Incidents
Fire	Outside fire	Other outside fire	2.0
Fire	Outside fire	Wildfire - urban interface	3.0
Fire	Outside fire	Wildfire - wildland	7.0
Fire	Outside fire Total		12.0
Fire	Structure fire	Chimney fire	1.0
Fire	Structure fire	Confined cooking / appliance fire	1.0
Fire	Structure fire	Room and contents fire	2.0
Fire	Structure fire	Structural involvement	6.0
Fire	Structure fire Total		10.0
Fire Total			22.0
Hazsit	Hazard non chemical	Electrical hazard / short circuit	4.0
Hazsit	Hazard non chemical	Electrical power line down / arching / malfunction	9.0
Hazsit	Hazard non chemical	Motor vehicle collision	12.0
Hazsit	Hazard non chemical Total		25.0
Hazsit	Hazardous materials	Carbon monoxide release	1.0
Hazsit	Hazardous materials	Fuel spill / fuel odor	2.0
Hazsit	Hazardous materials	Gas leak / gas odor	16.0
Hazsit	Hazardous materials	Hazardous material release (Chemical from transportation)	1.0
Hazsit	Hazardous materials Total		20.0
Hazsit	Investigation	Odor investigation	8.0
Hazsit	Investigation	Smoke investigation	19.0
Hazsit	Investigation Total		27.0
Hazsit Total			72.0
Lawenforce	Law enforcement support	Law enforcement support	1.0
Medical	Illness	Abdominal pain / problems	24.0
Medical	Illness	Allergic reaction / stings	10.0
Medical	Illness	Altered mental status	21.0
Medical	Illness	Back pain (non-trauma)	17.0
Medical	Illness	Breathing problems	69.0
Medical	Illness	Cardiac arrest	9.0
Medical	Illness	Chest pain (non-trauma)	39.0
Medical	Illness	Convulsions / seizures	15.0
Medical	Illness	Diabetic problems	11.0
Medical	Illness	Headache	2.0
Medical	Illness	Heart problems	3.0
Medical	Illness	Nausea / Vomiting	7.0
Medical	Illness	No appropriate choice (medical response)	55.0
Medical	Illness	Overdose	2.0
Medical	Illness	Pregnancy / childbirth	3.0
Medical	Illness	Psychological / behavior issues	16.0
Medical	Illness	Sick case	93.0
Medical	Illness	Stroke / CVA	9.0
Medical	Illness	Unconscious victim	12.0
Medical	Illness	Unknown problem (medical)	21.0
Medical	Illness	Well person check	5.0
Medical	Illness Total		443.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Animal bites	1.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Assault	1.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Burns / explosion	1.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Choking	1.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Eye trauma	1.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Fall	116.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Gunshot wound	1.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Heat / cold exposure	1.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Hemorrhage / laceration	5.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Motor vehicle collision	63.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Other traumatic injury	10.0
Medical	Injury trauma	Poisoning	1.0
Medical	Injury trauma Total		202.0
Medical	Medical other	Airmedical transport	1.0
Medical	Medical other	Medical alarm	11.0
Medical	Medical other	Standby request (medical)	3.0
Medical	Medical other Total		15.0
Medical Total			660.0

Noemerg	Cancelled	Cancelled	11.0
Noemerg	False alarm	Accidental alarm	21.0
Noemerg	False alarm	Intentional false alarm	5.0
Noemerg	False alarm	Malfunctioning alarm	32.0
Noemerg	False alarm	Other false call	12.0
Noemerg	False alarm Total		70.0
Noemerg	Good intent	Investigate hazardous release (Nothing found)	1.0
Noemerg	Good intent	No incident found upon arrival / location error	2.0
Noemerg	Good intent	Smoke from non-hostile source (Smoke scare)	1.0
Noemerg	Good intent Total		4.0
Noemerg Total			85.0
Pubserv	Alarms non medical	CO alarm	14.0
Pubserv	Alarms non medical	Fire / smoke alarm	50.0
Pubserv	Alarms non medical	Gas alarm	1.0
Pubserv	Alarms non medical	Other Alarm	16.0
Pubserv	Alarms non medical Total		81.0
Pubserv	Citizen assist	Citizen assist / service call	37.0
Pubserv	Citizen assist	Lift assist	19.0
Pubserv	Citizen assist	Person in distress	1.0
Pubserv	Citizen assist Total		57.0
Pubserv	Disaster weather	Damage assessment	2.0
Pubserv	Public service other	Standby (public service)	5.0
Pubserv Total			145.0
Rescue	Structure rescue	Elevator / escalator rescue	1.0
Rescue	Transportation rescue	Aviation standby	1.0
Rescue	Transportation rescue	Motor vehicle collision extrication / entrapment	2.0
Rescue	Transportation rescue Total		3.0
Rescue	Water rescue	Person in water (Standing water / lake)	1.0
Rescue Total			5.0
N\A	N\A	N\A	53.0
Grand Total			1,043.0

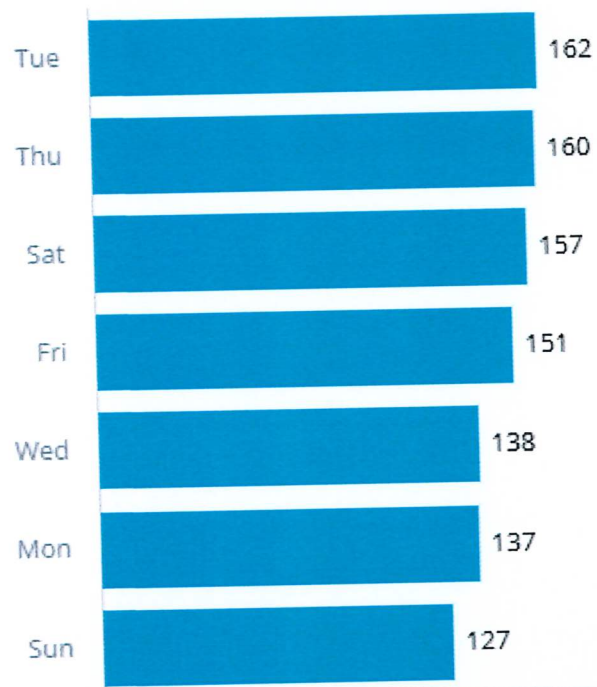
Incident Count By Month (This Year)



Incident Count by Hour of Day



Incident Count by Day of Week



Town of Groton

Fiscal Year 2028 Preliminary Summary

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY - ESTIMATE

<u>Category</u>	<u>FY 2028</u>
Unexpended Levy Capacity	\$ 37,714
Anticipated FY 2028 Levy Increase (\$15 Million in New Growth)	\$ 1,254,629
Anticipated FY 2028 Local Receipts Increase	\$ -
Anticipated FY 2028 State Aid Increase (2.5% Estimated Increase)	\$ 31,690
Available New Revenue for Fiscal Year 2028	\$ 1,324,033
Initial Set Aside for Municipal Budget (40%)	\$ 529,613
Initial Set Aside for GDRSD Operational Assessment (60%)	\$ 794,420
Anticipated Increase in GDRSD Assessment (9.24% Increase)	\$ 2,721,757
<u>Anticipated Increases in Municipal Budget</u>	
Salaries/Wages - All Union Contracts Call for 3% COLA	\$ 293,877
Pension - (Estimated Increase of 6.54%)	\$ 183,698
Health Insurance - (Estimated Increase of 10%)	\$ 184,578
Anticipated Increase Patriot RECC - Communications Budget	\$ 180,000
Anticipated Increase in Nashoba Tech (2½% Increase)	\$ 23,490
Total	\$ 865,643
Anticipated FY 2027 Preliminary Surplus(Deficit)	\$ (2,263,367)



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Matthew F. Pisani, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *All Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions*

From: *Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager*

Subject: *Fall Town Meeting- October 3, 2026*

Date: *July 14, 2026*

Please be advised that at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Select Board held on Monday, July 13, 2026, the Board voted to call for and open the Warrant for the 2026 Fall Town Meeting. The Meeting will be on Saturday, October 3, 2026. The Warrant will close at the close of business on Thursday, August 13, 2026.

All articles should be submitted in writing to the Select Board as soon as possible to allow for as much time for legal and financial review. All articles should be submitted with a written summary. These summaries will be included in the Fall Town Meeting Warrant so they must be submitted with the proposed Article. The following is the timeline:

Monday, July 13, 2026 -	Warrant for 2026 Fall Town Meeting Opens
Thursday, August 13, 2026 -	Warrant for 2026 Fall Town Meeting Closes
Monday, August 17, 2026 -	Select Board conducts first review of Articles
Monday, August 31, 2026 -	SB - FINCOM Public Hearing on Articles
Monday, September 14, 2026 -	Select Board Finalizes and Issues the Warrant
Friday, September 18, 2026 -	Post Warrant
Saturday, October 3, 2026 -	2026 Fall Town Meeting

As has been the case in the past, please plan on attending any meeting of the Select Board in which they review an article you have submitted. I will provide all Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions with a schedule once it is developed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

MWH/rjb

cc: Select Board
Grace Bannasch - Town Clerk
Jason Kauppi - Town Moderator
Brian Falk - Town Counsel

FISCAL YEAR 2027

GOALS OF THE GROTON SELECT BOARD

Governance, Technology & Data Policy

Select Board Member Assigned:

Establish, appoint members to, and adopt a formal charge for a committee tasked with evaluating and recommending Town policies governing the responsible use of emerging technologies, including:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) in municipal government;
- License Plate Reader (LPR) technology;
- Municipal surveillance and security camera systems;
- Data-gathering technologies used by the Town;
- The collection, storage, protection, retention, sharing, and disposal of data generated through these technologies;
- Standards for evaluating technology vendors and ensuring that companies contracted by the Town meet appropriate privacy, cybersecurity, transparency, and data governance expectations.

The committee shall develop recommendations that balance operational efficiency, public safety, innovation, transparency, cybersecurity, privacy, civil liberties, and public trust to ensure residents remain confident in the Town's use of technology.

Budget Priorities & State Funding

Select Board Member Assigned:

Continue active and sustained collaboration with the Town's state legislative delegation and regional partners to:

- Increase unrestricted local aid and education funding for the Town of Groton and the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District beginning in FY28;
- Advocate for permanent improvements to the Commonwealth's municipal and educational funding formulas;
- Restore previously eliminated positions within the Police Department, Department of Public Works, and Groton-Dunstable Regional School District;
- Support expanded staffing within the Fire Department to meet growing service demands;
- Identify sustainable funding strategies to maintain and enhance essential municipal services while minimizing the local tax burden.

Town Manager Succession Planning

Select Board Member Assigned:

During the second half of FY27, begin planning for the anticipated transition to a new Town Manager in November 2027 to ensure organizational stability and continuity of leadership by:

- Developing a comprehensive recruitment timeline;
- Reviewing and updating the Town Manager job description and desired qualifications;
- Establishing a transparent and inclusive recruitment and selection process;
- Developing a transition plan that ensures continuity of municipal operations and services.

Economic Development

Select Board Member Assigned:

Work collaboratively with Town boards, committees, property owners, businesses, developers, and community stakeholders to strengthen Groton's economic future by:

- Supporting the long-term vision of the Destination Groton initiative;
- Encouraging economic development that reflects Groton's historic character and community values;
- Identifying opportunities to expand the commercial tax base and generate sustainable municipal revenue;
- Supporting redevelopment projects that enhance downtown vitality while preserving its unique identity;
- Advancing planning efforts that encourage responsible business growth and appropriate residential development;
- Exploring opportunities for additional 55+ residential communities and working toward initiating at least one new development proposal within the next one to two years.

Public Communication & Civic Engagement

Select Board Member Assigned:

Develop and implement a comprehensive communications strategy that improves transparency, public engagement, and awareness of Town government by:

- Increasing communication regarding Select Board initiatives, major Town projects, and policy decisions;
- Highlighting the accomplishments of Town boards, committees, commissions, and departments;
- Expanding and modernizing the Town's social media presence to better engage residents;
- Enhancing the Town website, newsletters, videos, and other communication platforms to improve accessibility and information sharing;
- Increasing public awareness of available property tax relief, senior tax work-off (TREAD), and other financial assistance programs;
- Developing a coordinated outreach and awareness campaign to significantly increase participation at Annual and Special Town Meetings, with the goal of achieving voter turnout exceeding 10% of registered voters.

Transportation & Traffic Safety

Select Board Member Assigned:

Using the recommendations from the recent Main Street traffic studies, work collaboratively with the appropriate boards, committees, MassDOT, and regional partners to improve traffic safety, mobility, and pedestrian access by:

- Implementing at least three recommendations identified in the completed traffic studies;
- Striping and clearly defining on-street parking spaces where appropriate;
- Advancing planning and engineering for one or more roundabouts at key intersections;
- Continuing efforts to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Routes 40 and 119;
- Advancing the next phase of planning and design improvements for the Route 40/Broadmeadow Road intersection;
- Pursuing additional engineering, pedestrian safety, and traffic-calming improvements identified through ongoing transportation planning efforts.

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026
UN-APPROVED**

Select Board Members Present: Peter Cunningham, Chair, Nick Degaitas Jr., Clerk; John Reilly; Matt Pisani;

Select Board Members Virtually Present: Becky Pine, Vice Chair

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Patrica DuFresne, Assistant Director of Finance/Town Accountant; Melisa Doig, Human Resources Director; Daniel Stoneking, Groton Water Superintendent; CPC Candidates: Anna Eliot and Paul Funch; Bruce Easom;

Groton Water Commission Members Present: Jim Geminer; Greg Fishbone;

Groton Sewer Commission Members Present: Jim Geminer; Eric Berg;

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Cunningham announced that Groton's Annual Fireworks will be held on Monday, July 6th. Lawrence Academy has graciously offered its baseball fields next to Town Field to host the event. Deputy Rachael Chief Mead was present and explained the parking arrangements for the fireworks.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

David Smith, a resident of 13 Broadmeadow Road, read a Citizen's Petition into the record on behalf of Broadmeadow Road residents regarding a traffic concern at the intersection of Broadmeadow and Main Street (see included in these minutes). Mr. Cunningham stated that a Study is underway. Mr. Haddad then explained that the Town has received the existing conditions report from MDM Transportation Consultants, the firm conducting the study. He acknowledged that the intersection is dangerous and said that the next steps will be discussed with the consultants.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Dan Stoneking as Water Superintendent.

Mr. Haddad was pleased to report that after an extensive search for a new Water Superintendent, he was pleased to appoint Mr. Dan Stoneking of Billerica, MA to the position. He respectfully requested that the Select Board consider ratifying the appointment. The Board welcomed Mr. Stoneking.

Mr. Reilly made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Dan Stoneking as Water Superintendent, effective July 1, 2026. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

Mr. Haddad and the Select Board congratulated Mr. Stoneking and look forward to working with him.

2. Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Sonya Batalha as Assistant Assessor.

Mr. Haddad was pleased to announce that the search for an Assistant Assessor has concluded. The position was advertised, and 55 applicants applied. He formed an interview committee that included himself, Principal Assessor Tammi Mickel, Human Resources Director Melisa Doig, and Executive Assistant Kara Cruikshank. After interviewing five candidates, Mr. Haddad has decided to appoint Ms. Sonya Batalha of West Groton as the new Assistant Assessor.

Mr. Pisani made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Sonya Batalha as Assistant Assessor, effective June 29, 2026. Mr. Degaitas seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

3. Deputy Chief Mead-Update from Police Camera Working Group.

Deputy Chief Mead attended the meeting to provide the Board with an update on the Police Camera Working Group's work. She reported that one meeting has been held and that she thought it went very well. A demo of the Flock Program was presented. She said that at the next meeting they will be looking at the differences between Flock and Axon (Flock's competitor). Deputy Mead also said the Town of Littleton had the Flock Program, and their Town Meeting voted it down, so it is on hold. Mr. Haddad explained that there is a move to bring the Flock cameras back for the Town of Littleton due to break-ins occurring in Town. There have been questions about whether it should be a full-fledged committee or a Working Group. Mr. Haddad thinks the Working Group allows for a better process to review the issue. Working Groups have been successful in budget development, the PILOT study and Fire Staffing reviews. He stated that a public hearing will be held regarding the issue to gain public input. He said Deputy Mead has established a great team. Mr. Degaitas believes that the Working Group would be beneficial, but he thinks they should allow time for public comments. Deputy Mead took the time to answer questions from the Board. Mr. Haddad and the Board thanked Deputy Mead for the update.

4. Update/Proposal from Town Manager on Veterans Service Officer.

Mr. Haddad said he brought forward a proposal to fill the vacancy left by the newly retired Veterans Service Officer. The Board was not interested in that approach, so he reached out to the Towns of Pepperell and Littleton. They share a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) named Meg Murphy, who would be interested in stepping in on an interim basis for the Town of Groton. The towns expressed interest in creating a VSO district and explained that they are working on the details of the proposal. Mr. Haddad explained her credentials. He asked the Board to consider ratifying Meg Murphy's appointment as interim VSO.

Mr. Degaitas inquired about funding for Ms. Murphy's role and what the role's future vision would look like. He liked the idea of district development. Ms. Pine was concerned that this could become a benefited position. She said there may be local veterans interested in the same number of hours and pay that Maureen Heard was receiving. She wondered whether it would be worth considering a local option, someone doing the same role and at the same rate as Ms. Heard. Mr. Haddad explained that once the other towns have worked out the details, it will be brought back to the Select Board for approval.

Mr. Degaitas made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Meg Murphy as interim Veterans Service Officer, effective July 1, 2026. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

5. Update on Select Board Schedule through Labor Day.

Monday, July 6, 2026-	No Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting (Line-Item Trans.) (Call for 2026 Fall Town Meeting)
Monday, July 20, 2026-	No Meeting
Monday, July 27, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, August 3, 2026-	No Meeting (Kara Vacation)
Monday, August 10, 2026-	No Meeting (Mark's Vacation)
Monday, August 17, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, August 24, 2026-	No Meeting
Monday, August 31, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, September 7, 2026-	No Meeting (Labor Day)
Monday, September 14, 2026-	Regularly Scheduled Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

1. Consider Approving an Individual to Serve on the Board of Registrars.

The Town Clerk informed the two major Town Committees of the need to appoint a new member to the Board of Registrars, as the term of the Democratic member, Jane Fry, is set to expire. Grace Bannasch submitted a memo to the Board regarding this appointment and the current composition of the Board of Registrars, which Mr. Haddad reviewed. The Town Clerk contacted the chairs of both the Democratic and Republican Town Committees to request nominees. The Democratic Town Committee nominated Susan Greenough, who resides at 74 Willowdale Road. Mr. Haddad explained that the Republican Town Committee did not submit a recommendation. He respectfully requested that the Select Board appoint Susan Greenough to the Board of Registrars.

Mr. Degaitas made a motion to appoint Susan Greenough to the Board of Registrars, with a term expiring June 30, 2029. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

2. Review/Update Select Board Liaison Assignments.

Mr. Haddad presented last year's assignments to the Board for their review. He asked if anyone wanted to change their assignment and whether anyone would be willing to take over Alison Manugian's assignments. Mr. Degaitas volunteered to replace Ms. Manugian. The other members approved this replacement as well as their current assignments. (see attached)

3. Start Process to Create Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Goals.

It has been the Board's practice for each member to prepare two or three goals they would like to see achieved and submit them to Mr. Haddad. He has asked each member to compile their proposed goals and send them to him by Wednesday, July 8th. Mr. Haddad will then organize these goals into a document for the Board's review and approval. He will present the proposed goals for discussion and approval at the Board meeting scheduled for July 13, 2026.

6:15 p.m.- In Joint Session with the Sewer Commission- Interview and Consider Appointing an Individual to the Sewer Commission Until the 2027 Annual Town Election.

Commissioners Jim Geminer and Eric Berg were present at the meeting. Mr. Haddad explained that the position had been advertised for two weeks, but no interest forms had been received for the committee. Noticing that Mr. Bruce Easom was also in attendance, Mr. Haddad asked whether he would be willing to serve as a Sewer Commissioner. Mr. Easom expressed his willingness to join the Commission, and the Board unanimously agreed that he would be an excellent candidate.

Mr. Pisani made a motion to appoint Bruce Easom to the Sewer Commission until the 2027 Annual Town Election. Mr. Degaitas seconded the motion. Roll Call: Cunningham-aye; Degaitas-aye; Gmeiner-aye; Berg-aye; Reilly-aye; Pine-aye.

Review and Interview Applicants for Appointment to the Community Preservation Committee.

Mr. Paul Funch and Ms. Anna Eliot attended interviews for the At-Large position on the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Mr. Haddad explained that this is a three-year appointment intended to replace Ms. Carolyn Perkins, who chose not to seek reappointment to the committee. The members of the Select Board asked both candidates to share their reasons for wanting to take on this role. Mr. Funch and Ms. Eliot each provided a brief overview of their backgrounds and interests related to this position.

After the Board interviewed both candidates, Ms. Eliot expressed her desire to withdraw her application, believing that Mr. Funch would serve the CPC well. The Select Board thanked Ms. Eliot for her gracious decision.

Ms. Pine moved to appoint Paul Funch to the At-Large Position on the CPC for a three-year term, effective July 1, 2026. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

On-Going Issues

- A. PFAS Issue –Six bids were received for the third phase of the project, with Defelice submitting the lowest bid. Mr. Haddad expressed gratitude to Congresswoman Lori Trahan for securing a \$1 million earmark to offset this project but noted that obtaining it will be challenging. He also thanked Executive Assistant Kara Cruikshank for completing the required certifications as part of the grant process.

Mr. Haddad explained that the Town advertised the project and received six bids prior to being awarded the federal earmark, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law procurement requirements. He noted that state procurement laws differ from federal procurement regulations, creating the possibility that the project could be required to be re-bid to comply with federal grant requirements.

- B. Mr. Haddad informed the Board that the Town received six bids for the project, and that the five bids other than the apparent low bid were each more than \$1.5 million higher than the lowest bid submitted by DeFelice Corporation. He explained that if the project were required to be re-bid, it is highly unlikely that the Town would receive the same low bid, resulting in an increase in project costs that would far exceed the value of the approximately \$1 million federal earmark. Based on these circumstances, Mr. Haddad stated that, if acceptance of the federal earmark requires the Town to reject the current bid and re-bid the project, he recommends that the Select Board decline the federal grant in order to avoid significantly greater costs to the Town. UMass Satellite Emergency Facility – Mr. Haddad and Mr. Degaitas held a productive meeting today with Groton School. He explained that Groton School made a significant cash contribution to the UMass Satellite Emergency Facility and assisted a student who had lost their home. Mr. Haddad emphasized that Groton School does a great deal of valuable work behind the scenes.
- C. Fire Department Staffing – Chief Cheeks will return to the Board on July 13th to provide an update on the Fire Department Staffing study.
- D. Main Street Study – None
- E. Flock Cameras-None

SELECT BOARD LIASON REPORTS

None

Approval of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of June 15, 2026

Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the regularly scheduled minutes of June 15, 2026. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degaitas-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye.

The Select Board adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager.